

Y. M. C. A.

THE seventeenth annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of Ontario and Quebec, which was held in this city, February 3rd to 6th, was pronounced by all the most enthusiastic and helpful that has yet been held in Canada. One marked feature of the convention was the large increase of delegates from college associations, and the large proportion of the time allotted to the discussion of college work in its different phases. University College, Toronto, was represented by 10 delegates; one was present from the United Association of the Toronto Medical Schools; 3 from Albert College, Belleville, and 5 from the Association of McGill University, Montreal, three of whom are Medicals.

On Thursday evening the college delegates were entertained at tea by representatives from Queen's, so that all the student members of the Convention got into full sympathy with each other before the sessions of the Convention began.

On Friday afternoon, Mr. J. K. Unsworth, of McGill, read a paper on "The Maintenance of Inter-Collegiate Relations." He said that McGill had endeavoured to do her duty in the matter of regular correspondence with Queen's and Toronto, but these Associations had not responded. He felt their should be at least a monthly letter between the colleges. Possibly our college was being blessed, when the workers becoming discouraged and cold. Blessings are always increased by being shared, and the disheartened brethren would be strengthened. He suggested a Monthly Bulletin for the College Associations of Canada, in which a certain space should be allotted to each college.

At 4 o'clock all the college delegates asked permission to withdraw from the Convention, and made their way to the University building to attend the weekly meeting for praise and prayer. The largest room in the building was crowded to its utmost capacity. Mr. L. D. Wishard, International College Secretary, led the service and asked the boys to speak freely. Representatives from the sister Colleges spoke with warm fellow feeling of their brothers in Christ at Queen's, to which a number from our own Association responded with delight.

At this point Dr. Grant entered the meeting, bringing with him Hon. S. H. Blake, whom he introduced to the students. After a very hearty reception, Mr. Blake gave some earnest pointed counsels, which the boys will not soon forget. He said the hope of the country and the extension of Christ's kingdom depended upon the Christian young men, and especially those of intellectual ability.

In the evening grand addresses were delivered in the City Hall by Rev. Dyson Hague, Principal Grant and Hon. S. H. Blake. Mr. Blake's appeal for the cause of the Young Men's Christian Association was the best we have ever heard, and his pleadings with young men to accept Christ were almost irresistible.

On Saturday morning, Orr Bennett, B.A., President of

our Association at Queen's, read a paper on "How to increase the membership among new students." It was ably prepared and contained much practical advice on this important subject.

In the evening a "Song Service" conducted by college students, was indeed an outburst of praise to our common Redeemer. Following this a paper was read by J. McP. Scott, of Toronto University, on "The work of the College Missionary Committees." This paper was fully discussed by the students of Queen's and McGill, and many valuable hints gained as to the best way of awakening a missionary spirit in the colleges.

On Sunday morning the delegates and many Christian young men assembled at 9 a.m. for a consecration meeting, which was conducted by W. McCullough, General Secretary of the Toronto Association, and L. D. Wishard. At this meeting many young men learned the folly of repeatedly asking God to consecrate them wholly and fill them with His Holy Spirit, when in reality they did not want any such thing.

In the afternoon a young men's meeting was held in the City Hall, largely attended by college students. Earnest addresses were delivered by Messrs. Laflamme, Williams and Unsworth, and at the close of the meeting a number of young men expressed their desire to join in the service of Christ.

At a quarter past eight o'clock the farewell meeting was held in the City Hall. Long before the time all sitting and standing room was filled and hundreds had to be turned away. After an address by Mr. Wishard on the rapid growth of Y. M. C. A. work, Mr. Meyers sang several solos, the congregation joining in the chorus. Then the meeting was turned over to Mr. Wishard, who asked all the delegates who had, as a result of the Convention, some fixed resolve to carry out when they returned home, to stand up. A great number arose and thereafter a half hour was spent in hearing the testimonies and resolutions of the devoted young men. Many were the words of comfort and encouragement passed from heart to heart.

Then the farewell came and it was a time of sadness. Mr. Wishard in a deeply affecting way spoke of the delights of the conference and of the kindness of friends. The delegates could never repay the citizens of Kingston for the goodness manifested, but in heaven they would rejoice together. He pathetically pictured the time when he, as well as many young men without homes, would keep open house for a thousand years in one of the many mansions Jesus had gone to prepare. Then the delegates, members of the local associations, and all young men who desired to be Christians, encircled the hall clasped hands and with great power sang, "Blest be the tie that binds." The scene was so impressive that many dim eyes were noticed in the audience. A fervent prayer was offered by Mr. Wishard. Rev. Dr. Jackson added the benediction and the seventeenth annual convention of the Y. M. C. Associations of Ontario and Quebec stood adjourned.